

find me.

With kindest regards to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball

Marion House 11 July

My dear Gray - I sit down to report progress knowing that you will think very meanly of my proceedings. Several things have turned out otherwise than I expected - Imprimis the season as always happens to travellers is an exceptional one - The winter & spring were unusually cold with quite exceptional snowfall and the heat has come on abruptly hence the vegetation is - we are assured a month later than usual and a large proportion of the plants growing at moderate heights are not yet in flower - The journey from Boston was pleasantly cool as far as Chicago rather unpleasantly hot by day ~~since thence~~ to Denver - On the day following our arrival we went to City Park both of us feeling much want of rest & coolness my companion having his digestion out of order & I feeling the heat & racket of the preceding days rather severely. Remembering that I am a complete stranger in this region you will

that wherever I go in the mountains
I find much to interest me - At Estes
Park we were at about 8000 ft. and I
made daily short excursions - on one
day rode up nearly to the limit of
the forest on Long's peak found a luxuriant
vegetation many charming plants
but no appearance of alpine vegetation
at 9700 or 9800 ft. Even there the
heat was more than we liked & only
towards morning did the air in
one's room become really cool.
Meanwhile we learned that the
thermometer in Denver stood from
90° to 96° by day while the plan of
our tour has been kept in suspense
by the misfortunes & misdeeds of the
Denver & Rio Grande R^r Comp^y. You
have perhaps heard that the line
between Pueblo & Gunnison has been
'washed out' in several places
& traffic interrupted - To make matters
worse Mr Lovejoy - manager or president of
the line - took up the rails near the
junction between the Colorado & Utah sections
of the line with a view to stop traffic

despite the Utah people - lastly
the company is unable to pay its workmen
and a receiver was appointed ~~on~~ ^{on} Aug^{ust}
or the day before. Of course we
are assured that all will ~~soon~~ be set
right within a few days - but ??
we may have to go round by Cheyenne
I shall at least secure the ascent
of Pike's Peak where the trail
is kept open & on which mountain
there seems to be much less snow
than on any other high summit
in the range -

What has so far surprised me most
is the heat of the climate at a
considerable height above sea-level
I have seen something like it in the
Sierra Nevada in S. Spain, ~~but~~
about the end of June, but that
is a small island of mountain surrounded
by very hot districts & at least 4° lat.
farther south than Estes Park
yet the heat was decidedly less
I must close - in case of need
Post office San Francisco will